

Hanford Patrol Wins State-Wide Shooting Competition

The Hanford Patrol recently won first place in the Police Pistol Combat Shooting competition at both the Washington State Police Pistol Combat Shooting competition and the Northwest Regional Championships. The six patrolmen who represented Hanford were Captain Steve Voigt, Patrolmen Curt Bearchum, Dusty Olson, Ruben Hernandez, Art Ramirez, and Jay Osborn. Three of them, Voigt, Bearchum, and Olson, were also named members of the Governor's Twenty Award (GTA), which is an elite team of the top twenty law enforcement shooters in the state of Washington. Captain Voigt was again rated the number 1 "top gun" in the state, an honor that he has received for an unprecedented 13th consecutive time. "I train vigorously for the shooting competition as a personal hobby year round. It is really an honor to be named to the GTA 13 times, and it reflects the hard work that I have done to perform at this level," said Voigt.

"I am very proud of the outstanding members of the Hanford Patrol. Their professionalism and devotion to duty reflects the highest standards of DOE's protective security force. Hanford Patrol's shooting proficiency has resulted in numerous awards and they are widely recognized as being among the finest in the nation," said Jim Spracklen, Director of Safeguards and Security Division at DOE's Richland Operations Office.

The Hanford Patrol won 1st place in both the 4-man team and 2-man team competitions. The competition also entailed training for firearms safety and an opportunity for progressive pistol marksmanship. The type of shooting was combat and tactically oriented which involved shooting in a standing, kneeling, sitting, running, and prone positions, as well as from behind a barricaded position.

Competition included use of various weapons and scores were based on timing and accuracy. "I am even more appreciative of our pistol competition team because they work to be the best in the business by practicing on their own time. I commend them highly for their marksmanship excellence," added Spracklen.

The competition is held annually and involves law enforcement agencies throughout the Northwest at the international, federal, state, and local levels. A total of 50 shooters competed, including members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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For more information contact:

Keith V. Taylor, (509) 376-2282

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